

# From LAND *and* WATER

THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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The Federal Subsistence Management Program is a multi-agency effort that emphasizes cooperation and consensus building with rural Alaskans. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and USDA Forest Service manage the Federal public lands and waters where subsistence activities take place.

## Counting on the Pikmiktalik

*Locally operated project gathers data for fishery management.*

—By Maureen Clark

**P**IKMIKTALIK RIVER — As a dime-bright coho salmon makes its way up the shallow waters of this western Alaska river on an August afternoon, its passage doesn't go unnoticed.

Perched on a scaffold tower 15 feet above the river is Kellen Katcheak of Stebbins, who clicks a hand-tally counter when he sees the fish pass below. Katcheak is on duty at the Pikmiktalik weir and counting tower and for 20 minutes each hour during his eight-hour shift his eyes are fixed on the river below, his counter firmly in hand.

Two fat, mottled chum salmon approach warily and then dart upriver. Click. Click. Five pink salmon, their tails swishing, churn the surface of the water as they



Kellen Katcheak on the Pikmiktalik counting tower

pass. Click. Click. Click. Click. Click. A single whitefish swims by slowly. Click.

The parade of fish and the counting — click by click — continues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. After each 20-minute counting period the tally for each species is recorded in a small notebook. Multiplying the totals by three provides an estimate of the total passage of each species for each hour.

When Katcheak completes his shift at 4 p.m., Danny Nashoanak of Stebbins takes over until midnight. At midnight, Rennie Jack of Stebbins continues the count with the aid of flood lights.



Partial weir and flash panel

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# Letter from the Chair

Every summer, when many of us head out to Alaska's rivers and lakes to catch our fish for the winter, there are others who go out to count fish. These fisheries technicians might spend weeks at a remote weir,



Mitch Demientieff of Nenana has served as chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board since 1995.

working on a fish wheel, sitting up in a counting tower, or keeping watch at a sonar site.

Like a summer spent gathering food, a summer spent counting fish isn't easy, but it is work that is so very important. This

summer, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program will provide funds for more than 50 fisheries counting projects throughout the state. These projects are used to count a variety of fish, including salmon, trout, char, and whitefish. They gather valuable infor-

mation that helps us learn more about the fish that sustain us.

I was fortunate enough to visit several such projects on the Snake and Eldorado Rivers near Nome last August and I was very pleased to see the good work that is being done. The data collected provides fishery managers with vital information about the abundance of fish and the timing of fish runs. This information can help managers make critical decisions about the harvest and conservation of fish during the fishing season.

In addition to counting fish, technicians may catch and release fish to learn more about the age, sex, and length of fish that make up the run. They may also tag fish for the collection of more complex data so that biologists can learn more about the seasonal distribution of fish stocks and the timing of fish runs.

Another important point is that many of these projects are operated with the help of, or entirely by, local people who know these rivers and resources best.

I will be out and about again in the coming months, visiting fisheries proj-



On the Eldorado River

ects and spending time with those who depend upon the resources we manage. I really enjoy these visits. They help me learn more about the issues that are important to subsistence users, and that helps me make decisions on proposals that come before the Federal Subsistence Board.

So as you travel about this summer, give a friendly wave to those working on the rivers. They are working hard for you!

Sincerely,



Mitch Demientieff  
Chairman,  
Federal Subsistence Board

## DEADLINES AND MEETINGS

**May 3-5** Federal Subsistence Board meets on proposals to change 2005-2006 hunting and trapping regulations.  
*Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage.*

**July 1** Federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations for 2005-2006 take effect.

**August 10** Proposal period to change Federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations opens.

**October 21** Deadline for submitting proposals to change Federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations.

**December 6-7** Federal Subsistence Board meets on the rural/non-rural review process.  
*Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage.*

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change

## Middle Yukon River Drift Gillnet Fishery Expanded

The Federal Subsistence Board has adopted a new regulation which expands the subsistence drift gillnet king salmon fishery area in the middle Yukon River. Proponents of this change say it will help rural residents meet their subsistence needs in a more efficient manner.

Under the new regulation, Federal subsistence users may use drift gillnets for the subsistence harvest of king salmon in Federal public waters in Yukon River Subdistricts 4B and 4C. These Federal public waters are within the Innoko and Nowitna National Wildlife Refuges. State waters between Galena and Ruby are closed to the use of drift gillnets.

Under the new regulation, drift gillnets for king salmon will be limited to no more than 150 feet in length and 35 meshes in depth. Fishing with drift gillnets will be allowed only during the last 18-hours of the weekly regulatory fishing period for Subdistrict 4B and 4C from June 10 through July 14.

Those wishing to participate in this fishery must hold a Federal permit. Permits will be available from refuge offices in Galena and Huslia and efforts are being made to distribute permits in additional villages prior to the start of the fishing season. ■

## Agreement Allows for Stikine River Subsistence Chinook and Coho Fisheries

There will be subsistence Chinook and coho salmon fisheries on the Stikine River this summer, as a result of the cooperative efforts of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the Federal Subsistence Management Program. These fisheries are in addition to the Stikine River subsistence sockeye fishery, which was implemented last year.

Because the Stikine River begins in Canada and flows into Southeast Alaska, Stikine River salmon are managed under provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Federal

Subsistence Board approved regulations for subsistence salmon fisheries on the Stikine at its December 2003 meeting, pending coordination with the Pacific Salmon Commission. In 2004, the Pacific Salmon Commission completed action necessary for the implementation of a subsistence sockeye fishery. In February 2005 it completed action on Chinook and coho salmon.

The total annual guideline harvest level for the Stikine River subsistence fishery is 125 Chinook salmon, 600 sockeye salmon, and 400 coho salmon. Under regulations approved by the Federal Subsistence Board, the Stikine River subsistence fisheries are open to residents of Petersburg, Wrangell, Meyers Chuck, and the nearby vicinity. Each household participating in these fisheries must obtain a permit from the USDA Forest Service. Each permit will be valid for 15 days and may be revalidated for additional 15 day periods. Legal fishing gear consists of dipnet, spear, gaff, rod and reel, beach seine or gillnet not exceeding 15 fathoms in length with a mesh size no larger than 5 ½ inches. Under these new regulations:

- Chinook may be harvested from May 15 to June 20. The annual limit is 5 Chinook salmon per household.
- Coho may be harvested from August 15 to October 1. The annual limit is 20 coho salmon per household.

Under the Stikine River subsistence sockeye regulations, first implemented in 2004:

- Sockeye may be harvested from July 1 to July 31. The annual limit is 40 sockeye salmon per household.

Permits for these fisheries will be available from the Forest Service district offices in Petersburg and Wrangell. ■

## Southeast Alaska Sees Changes in Fisheries Regulations

The Federal Subsistence Board has adopted new fisheries regulations for Southeast Alaska, including a regulation to establish a subsistence fishery for steelhead trout throughout Southeast. The Board adopted these regulations at its Jan. 11-13 meeting in Anchorage. The new regulations are for the 2005-2006 regulatory year.

(continued on page 4)



## NEWS IN BRIEF *(continued from page 3)*

Under the new Southeast steelhead regulation, qualified rural residents possessing a subsistence fishing permit may harvest steelhead from Jan. 1 through May 31. The daily household harvest and possession limit is one fish, with an annual household limit of two fish. The permit will provide fishery managers with data on harvest locations. In addition, Federal fishery managers, in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, will have the authority to limit harvest and provide special protection on streams where there are conservation concerns. The new regulation will not affect the existing Federal subsistence steelhead fishery on Prince of Wales Island.

The Board also adopted regulations modifying harvest limits for trout, Dolly Varden and grayling in Southeast. Under the new regulations, the daily household harvest and possession limit is 20 Dolly Varden, 20 grayling and 20 brook trout. The daily combined household harvest limit for cutthroat and rainbow trout is six and the household possession limit is 12. Similar to steelhead, Federal fishery managers, in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, will have the authority to limit harvest and provide special protection on streams where there are conservation concerns.

In addition, the Board adopted a regulation to allow the accumulation of annual Federal subsistence harvest limits with State of Alaska sport fishing harvest limits. This regulation would provide for a small increased harvest opportunity for Federally qualified users and would be similar to existing State regulations.

The Board rejected a proposal from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that would have lifted the closure of the sockeye salmon fishery on Kutlaku Lake and Creek on Kuiu Island to non-Federally qualified fishers. Residents of the community of Kake, who are the primary users of Kutlaku Lake and Creek, have testified that they have difficulty meeting their subsistence needs for sockeye salmon. ■



## Unit 21E Moose Management Planning Effort Begins

A moose management planning effort is now under way to address concerns about increasing pressure on the moose population in Unit 21E in the Western Interior. The effort is led by Randy Rogers of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation, with funding assistance provided by the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The cooperative effort includes representatives of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, Bureau of Land Management, Office of Subsistence Management and the ADF&G Division of Subsistence.

A moose management working group held its first meeting in Grayling in January and will meet in Shageluk in April. The working group is comprised of various stakeholders from the local area and from the Lower Yukon and Kuskokwim regions. It includes hunters, guides, transporters and Alaska resident hunters from outside the local area. Robert Walker of Anvik represents the Western Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council on the working group and Bob Aloysius of Kalskag represents the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council.

While moose survey data have indicated the moose population in Unit 21E is relatively stable, local residents say there has been increasing pressure from non-local hunters and from predators. In addition, area residents say moose survey numbers do not accurately reflect what they believe is a decline in population. A new population estimation survey was conducted in late February and early March and Rogers said this new data will help with the planning process.

It is hoped that a draft plan and any proposals for regulatory changes could be circulated in the fall of 2005 and would be presented to the Alaska Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board in 2006. ■

# Unit 2 Deer Management

*Interim recommendations include joint harvest reporting requirement*

The Unit 2 Deer Planning Subcommittee is expected to present its final recommendations addressing deer management issues to the Southeast Regional Advisory Council later this year. Among the preliminary recommendations is a joint Federal/State deer harvest reporting form to be used by both subsistence and non-subsistence deer hunters in Unit 2. Prince of Wales Island makes up most of Unit 2.

The subcommittee was established by the Southeast Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council in 2004 at the suggestion of the Federal Subsistence Board, to address concerns that subsistence hunters in Unit 2 were not able to harvest enough deer to meet their needs. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) requires that rural residents be given priority to subsistence resources on Federal lands. Residents of Prince of Wales Island, Petersburg, and Wrangell are considered to be rural residents who qualify for this Federal subsistence priority, while residents of Ketchikan are nonrural.

The subcommittee's goal is to develop a management approach that ensures the long-term conservation of Unit 2 deer, maintains the rural subsistence priority on Federal public



*Public meeting on Unit 2 deer issues in Thorne Bay*

lands, and minimizes adverse effects on nonrural hunters who also rely on Unit 2 deer.

The 12-member subcommittee is comprised of hunters and wildlife managers and includes residents of Craig, Hydaburg, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Point Baker and Wrangell, and representatives from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the USDA Forest Service. The subcommittee worked to develop management recommendations at a series of public meetings held in communities that depend upon Unit 2 deer.

There was participation from both federally qualified and non-federally qualified deer hunters at these meetings.

Subcommittee members said they feel there is a need for substantially better information about the harvest of deer, the needs of subsistence users, and deer population levels and trends in Unit 2. To gather

this information, the subcommittee is recommending that all deer hunters in Unit 2 — both those hunting under State regulations and those hunting under Federal subsistence regulations — be required to report their harvest at the end of the season using a postage-paid form.

The Southeast Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council endorsed this joint approach to reporting the harvest of deer at its February meeting in Petersburg. The Alaska Board of Game also passed a resolution at its March meeting in Anchorage supporting the joint deer harvest reporting.

Meanwhile, the same deer hunting season for Federal lands in Unit 2, adopted by the Board in 2004, will remain in place for 2005. These regulations allow for a week-long deer hunt for federally qualified subsistence users in July and close Federal lands on Prince of Wales Island to non-federally qualified hunters for two weeks in August. ■



*Unit 2 Deer Subcommittee*



# Partners for Fisheries Monitoring

## *New faces at Native organizations*

**T**hree new fishery biologists and one anthropologist have recently taken positions with Alaska Native organizations under the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. The Partners program, which is part of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, funds the hiring and training of 6 biologists and 2 social scientists who work on fishery projects in the regions they serve.

### *Gretchen Sidorov – Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments, Fort Yukon*

Gretchen Sidorov is a fisheries restoration specialist. She owned and operated a small aquatics company in Winthrop, Wash. that partnered with an academic nonprofit team from the University of Washington. Their work was focused on complementary watershed grant efforts for salmon habitat assessment, restoration, monitoring and education in the Pacific Northwest. Gretchen is looking forward to continuing the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Government's involvement with a number of ongoing projects this year. Among them: the Chandalar River Chinook sonar project, for which CATG will provide an intern and technical assistance to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. CATG will also provide an intern as well as field and technical support to collect genetic data on the Sheenjek River. In addition, CATG, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will host science camps in Fort Yukon in July and August. The camps will combine both traditional knowledge and western fisheries technical training. Gretchen will supervise two high school interns who will provide assistance on the genetics projects and science camps.



*Gretchen Sidorov*

### *David Orabutt – Kuskokwim Native Association, Aniak*

David Orabutt is originally from Hayward, Wisc. He received his bachelor's degree in aquatic biology and environmental policy and planning from Bemidji State University and is completing his master's in fisheries from Colorado State Univer-



*David Orabutt*

sity. His graduate research project was working with introduced northern pike in Colorado trout reservoirs, evaluating habitat and estimating abundance. He has conducted fish and habitat monitoring with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and participated in halibut surveys with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In his position with the Kuskokwim Native Association, David will be working on a variety of fisheries projects throughout the mid-Kuskokwim River region. These include the George and Tatlawiksuk River weirs, operated in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; the Whitefish Lake weir and telemetry study with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Aniak post-season subsistence harvest survey with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In addition, David will oversee the work of a college intern, who will assist with fisheries projects.

### *Kyle Belleque – Bristol Bay Native Association, Dillingham*

Kyle Belleque grew up in Dillingham and is pleased to be returning home to work for the Bristol Bay Native Association and the Partners program. Kyle received his bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and has been involved with numerous fisheries projects throughout the Bristol Bay region. These include working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Division in both Dillingham and King Salmon, working for the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute in its founding years, and creating the Bristol Bay Salmon Camp. Most recently, Kyle was a teacher in Koliganek, Alaska. He is excited to be returning to fisheries. BBNA has established an outstanding summer internship program that offers fisheries experience to six college students. Kyle will work to build upon these already successful internships. He is working with Liz Brown of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, BBNA anthropologist Robbin La Vine, and Beth Spangler, coordinator of the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program to make the internships available for college credit throughout the state. In addition, Kyle looks forward to working with the various agencies in Bristol Bay to develop and implement Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects.



*Kyle Belleque*



Robbin LaVine

**Robbin LaVine –  
Bristol Bay Native Association,  
Dillingham**

Robbin LaVine is looking forward to continuing her work cultivating the growing body of traditional knowledge of the people of Southwest Alaska. Robbin has worked with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge on a project to gather oral history and traditional knowledge of Yup'ik elders in Manokotak. This project documented elders' observations of the abundance and distribution of salmon, char, trout, whitefish, blackfish and other species to help biologists address fisheries management issues in the Togiak Refuge.

Robbin has also served as an intern creating displays at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, served on the adjunct faculty at Alaska Pacific University, and served as a research assistant at the Environment and Natural Resources Institute in Anchorage.

She received her degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage and is working to complete her master's in applied anthropology at UAA. Robbin will be working closely with Kyle Belleque to build on BBNA's successful internship program. ■

*For more information about the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring program contact Beth Spangler at (907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456 or by e-mail, [beth\\_spangler@fws.gov](mailto:beth_spangler@fws.gov)*

## Board approves Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan for 2005

The Federal Subsistence Board has approved a \$2 million Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan for 2005. The plan, approved Jan. 11, includes 24 projects which provide information critical for the management of Alaska's subsistence fisheries.

### *Among the highlights of the plan are:*

- Studies to assess abundance of salmon in the Unalakleet, Anvik, Tanana, Koyukuk, and Kuskokwim rivers; Lake Clark; Kook and Klawock lakes in Southeast Alaska; and the Perryville-Chignik area.
- Harvest assessment research to quantify subsistence salmon harvests in the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Copper rivers.
- Studies using traditional knowledge to learn more about customary uses and harvests of Pacific cod, sockeye salmon, and Arctic grayling.
- Studies to assess the distribution, migrations, and life history of whitefish in the Kuskokwim River and the Lake Clark watershed.
- Genetic research to identify discrete populations of coho salmon in the Yukon River and Chinook salmon in the Kuskokwim River.

In addition to the 24 projects approved in January, an additional 57 ongoing studies previously approved by the Board, are being conducted in 2005. Collectively, the 81 research and monitoring projects will provide vital information needed to sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands for rural Alaskans. Since 2000, 76 organizations, including 52 Alaska Native organizations, have participated in the Subsistence Fisheries Monitoring Program. The Monitoring Program provides information to better manage fisheries and provides employment and contracting opportunities for rural Alaskans. Local involvement is one of the cornerstones of the program. One-third of program funds are awarded to Alaska Native and rural organizations. ■



*Measuring an Arctic cisco at Jago Lagoon near Kaktovik—field work for a whitefish study funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.*

# COUNTING ON THE PIKMIKTALIK

(continued from page 1)

The Pikmiktalik River is located within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and is an important source of salmon and whitefish for residents of the villages of Stebbins and St. Michael. Village residents had long felt that information about how many fish were making it upriver to spawn would improve the management of these fishery resources.

With funding from the Federal Subsistence Management Program, they began gathering this information in the summer of 2003 by constructing a weir and tower on the Pikmiktalik River. The project is operated by the regional Native non-profit organization, Kawerak, Inc., in cooperation with the Native village councils of Stebbins and St. Michael.

“This information is vital to continuing the customary and traditional ways of our people, so we can pass on this resource for the next generation,” says Morris Nashoanuk, president of the Stebbins Community Association.

The project, located a few miles upriver from Norton Sound, consists of a counting tower and a picket weir that spans about three-quarters of the width of the river. A weir is essentially a fence across a flowing river. As fish head upriver the pickets, made of aluminum pipe, divert the fish to one side of the river where they must pass over a white vinyl flash panel placed on the riverbed. The white background of the flash panel makes it easy for the fisheries technicians in the tower to identify and count the fish as they pass.

In addition to their counting duties, the technicians work to keep the debris that floats downriver from piling up on the weir. Periodically, they wade into the river and



Pikmiktalik crew 2004, Rennie Jack, Danny Nashoanuk and Kellen Katcheak

*“This information is vital to continuing the customary and traditional ways of our people.”*

—Morris Nashoanuk  
President, Stebbins Community Association

use a broom to sweep away the carcasses of spawned-out salmon and branches that wash down the river. They also record the water temperature and depth at the site.

The crew also sets out a gillnet at least once a week to catch fish. These fish are examined to determine the sex and measured for length. In addition a scale sample is taken, which provides data about the age of the fish. The fish are then released to continue their journey upriver. The scale

samples are sent to the Nome office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for analysis.

Each morning Katcheak, the lead fisheries technician, gets on the VHF radio and reports the results of the count from the previous 24 hours to the Stebbins Community Association. The information is passed on to Kawerak fisher-



Pikmiktalik camp





Hand-held counter

ies biologist Karen Dunmall, who forwards it to ADF&G and Federal fishery managers.

“The Pikmiktalik has a significant amount of salmon,” says Dunmall. “It’s one of the higher producing rivers that we have escapement projects on. And some of the information we’ve been getting has been pretty interesting. The age composition of fish in the Pikmiktalik seems to be a little different from other areas in Norton Sound.”

The daily radio call also gives the crew a chance to connect with those back in the village. A staffer with the Stebbins Community Association lets Katcheak know that groceries will be arriving at the end of the week and, with the nights getting chilly, she offers to send along more blankets.

The crew’s camp consists of a snug cabin and a sleeping tent. Camp life is low key, punctuated by the occasional visit from a passing boat or a curious bear. During their off-duty hours, the technicians entertain themselves by reading, listening to Nome radio station KNOM and watching DVDs on a small portable television. For Katcheak, the work reminds him of summers spent at his grandparents’ fish camp nearby when he was a boy. Morris Nashoanak



Keeping watch

of the Stebbins Community Association says that personal connection is important.

“These young men are descendants of those who’ve used these resources for many years,” said Nashoanak. “It’s important for them to understand and pass along the importance of these resources to the next generation.”

From June 16 to August 31, 2004 the Pikmiktalik crew counted 225 Chinook, 8,051 chum, 50,621 pink salmon, 11,799 coho, 616 Dolly Varden and 514 whitefish.

“They did a good job,” Nashoanak said. “They were very dependable.” ■

*Maureen Clark is the public affairs specialist with the Office of Subsistence Management.*



Catching fish



Sampling fish



Releasing fish

# Regional Advisory Council Members

Each year the Secretary of the Interior, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, makes new appointments and reappointments to fill vacancies and expiring terms on the 10 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. These Councils advise the Federal Subsistence Board on regulations and policies and serve as a forum for public involvement in Federal subsistence management. The Councils are comprised of subsistence, sport and commercial users from within each of the 10 regions. With the 2004 appointments, the membership of the Regional Advisory Councils is as follows:

## Southeast

- Bert Adams, Yakutat
- Michael D. Bangs, Petersburg
- Michael Douville, Craig
- Dolores A. Garza, Ketchikan
- Donald C. Hernandez, Pt. Baker
- Eric W. Jordan, Sitka
- Harvey Kitka, Sitka
- Floyd Kookesh, Angoon
- John H. Littlefield, Sitka
- Patricia A. Phillips, Pelican
- Frank G. Wright, Hoonah
- Michael C. Soufoulis, Juneau
- Richard L. Stokes, Wrangell



*Southeast Regional Advisory Council*

## Southcentral

- Douglas F. Blossom, Clam Gulch
- Tom M. Carpenter, Cordova
- Robert B. Churchill, Anchorage
- Gilbert Dementi, Cantwell
- Fred Elvsaas, Seldovia
- R. Greg Encelewski, Ninilchik
- Sylvia Lange, Cordova
- Ralph E. Lohse, McCarthy
- Harley B. McMahan, Gakona
- James R. Showalter, Sterling
- Gloria Stickwan, Tazlina
- Pete A. Kompkoff Jr., Chenega Bay
- Dean L. Wilson Jr., Kenny Lake



*Pat Holmes, Kodiak*

## Kodiak/Aleutians

- Alfred B. Cratty Jr., Old Harbor
- Paul Gundersen, Nelson Lagoon
- Samuel I. Rohrer, Kodiak
- Patrick B. Holmes, Kodiak
- Ivan Lukin, Port Lions
- Pete Squartsoff, Port Lions
- Speridon Simeonoff Sr., Akhiok
- Vincent M. Tutiakoff Sr., Adak
- M. Richard Zacharof Jr., St. Paul

## Bristol Bay

- Pete M. Abraham, Togiak
- Virginia Aleck, Chignik Lake
- Randy C. Alvarez, Naknek
- Andrew Balluta, Iliamna
- Dan O. Dunaway, Dillingham
- Robert Heyano, Dillingham
- Boris Kosbruk, Perryville
- Daniel J. O'Hara, Naknek
- Nanci A. Morris, King Salmon
- Harold Robin Samuelsen Jr., Dillingham



*James Charles, Tuntutuliak*

## Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

- Bob Aloysius, Kalskag
- James A. Charles, Tuntutuliak
- Willard D. Church, Quinhagak
- Mary Gregory, Bethel
- John Hanson Sr., Alakanuk
- Beverly Hoffman, Bethel
- Joseph P. Mike, Kotlik
- Phillip Moses, Toksook Bay
- Willard D. Church Jr., Quinhagak
- Raymond J. Oney, Alakanuk
- William F. Brown, Eek
- Greg J. Roczicka, Bethel
- Harry O. Wilde Sr., Mountain Village
- Lester Wilde Sr., Hooper Bay



Ronald Sam, Allakaket

## Western Interior

- Raymond L. Collins, McGrath
- Benedict Jones, Koyukuk
- Tom Kriska, Koyukuk
- Carl M. Morgan, Aniak
- Donald V. Honea Jr., Ruby
- Jack L. Reakoff, Wiseman
- Ronald Sam, Allakaket
- Michael Joseph Stickman, Nulato
- Robert A. Walker, Anvik

## Seward Peninsula

- Peter G. Buck, White Mountain
- Grace A. Cross, Nome
- Thomas Gray, White Mountain
- Vance E. Grishkowsky, Unalakleet
- Clifford Weyiouanna, Shishmaref
- Leonard Kobuk, St. Michael
- Jacob Olanna Sr., Nome
- Charles Saccheus, Sr., Elim
- Myron P. Savetilik, Shaktoolik
- Elmer K. Seetot Jr., Brevig Mission

## Northwest Arctic

- Victor Karmun, Kotzebue
- Percy C. Ballot Sr., Buckland
- Lance Kramer, Kotzebue
- Ralph A. Ramoth Sr., Selawik
- Calvin Moto, Deering
- Walter Sampson, Kotzebue
- Enoch Shiedt, Kotzebue
- Raymond Stoney, Kiana
- Austin Swan Sr., Kivalina
- Reggie R. Cleveland, Shungnak



Victor Karmun, Kotzebue

## Eastern Interior

- Andrew Bassich, Eagle
- Susan Louise Entsminger, Tok Cutoff
- Craig L. Fleener, Fort Yukon
- Gerald D. Nicholia, Tanana
- Allen J. Stevens, Stevens Village
- Philip Titus, Minto
- Virgil Umphenour, North Pole
- Donald A. Woodruff, Eagle
- James Nathaniel Sr., Chalkyitsik
- Larry Williams, Venetie

## North Slope

- Baxter Bailey Hopson, Barrow
- Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak, Nuiqsut
- Paul Bodfish Sr., Atkasuk
- Gordon Brower Sr., Barrow
- Harry K. Brower Jr., Barrow
- Ray F. Koonuk, Sr., Point Hope
- Raymond Paneak, Anaktuvuk Pass
- David A. Gunderson, Wainwright
- Terry L. Tagarook, Wainwright
- Julius M. Rexford Sr., Point Lay

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Would you or someone you know like to serve on a Regional Advisory Council? Contact Ann Wilkinson at the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888 or by e-mail, [ann\\_wilkinson@fws.gov](mailto:ann_wilkinson@fws.gov)

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Susan Entsminger, Tok Cutoff



# Rural Review Under Way

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**T**he Federal Subsistence Board is currently reviewing the rural/nonrural status of Alaska communities. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) requires that a subsistence priority be provided to rural residents of Alaska. Therefore, when the Federal Subsistence Management Program began in 1990, a necessary first step was to distinguish between rural and nonrural areas or communities. Regulations require that the Board review the rural/nonrural status of Alaska communities on a 10-year cycle, beginning with the publication of the 2000 U.S. census.

The Board began this review with an opportunity for public and Regional Advisory Council comment on this process and on the methods used to evaluate communities. The Board is currently reviewing the comments received.

The following questions and answers are intended to help Alaskans understand how this review will be conducted.

## *Which communities are currently considered rural?*

All communities and areas in Alaska are currently considered rural for the purposes of the Federal subsistence Management Program, except for the following:

- Adak
- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Homer area – including Homer, Anchor Point, Kachemak City, and Fritz Creek
- Juneau area – including Juneau, West Juneau, and Douglas
- Kenai area – including Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Salamatof, Kalifornsky, Kasilof, and Clam Gulch
- Ketchikan area – including Ketchikan City, Clover Pass, North Tongass Highway, Ketchikan East, Mountain Pass, Herring Cove, Saxman East, Pen-nock Island, and parts of Gravina Island
- Municipality of Anchorage
- Seward area – including Seward and Moose Pass
- Valdez
- Wasilla area – including Palmer, Wasilla, Sutton, Big Lake, Houston, and Bodenberg Butte

## *What criteria will be used to determine whether a community is rural or nonrural?*

Federal subsistence staff will review the population size of each community, with a focus on what has changed since the 1990 census.

- A community with a population of 2,500 or less is considered rural unless it possesses significant characteristics of a nonrural nature, or is considered to be socially and economically part of a nonrural area.
- A community with a population of more than 7,000 is considered nonrural, unless it possesses significant characteristics of a rural nature.
- A community with a population above 2,500 but not more than 7,000 will be evaluated to see if there have been relevant changes in community characteristics that may warrant a change in status. If so, a further analysis would be done.
- The criteria used in these analyses may include, but are not limited to, diversity and development of the local economy, use of fish and wildlife, community infrastructure, transportation, and educational institutions.
- Communities that are economically, socially, and communally integrated will be combined for evaluation purposes.

## *What communities could see a change in their rural/nonrural status following this review?*

The review is at an early stage and it is too soon to say what the outcome will be. In general, most communities in Alaska did not see significant changes in population between 1990 and 2000, so the rural/nonrural status of these communities is expected to remain unchanged.

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### *How long will this review take?*

The Board's review is expected to be completed by December 2006. The following timetable outlines the steps in this process:

**February-August 2005:** The staff of the Federal Subsistence Management Program will conduct an initial review of the rural status of Alaska communities, looking at the 2000 census data for each community with a focus on what has changed since 1990. From this initial review, staff will compile a report which includes a proposed list of communities for which further analysis is needed. In addition, the report will include the method used to develop this list.

**August-October 2005:** The public and Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils will be invited to comment on the results of this initial review.

**December 2005:** The Federal Subsistence Board will meet to consider the public and Regional Advisory Council comments and to determine if any changes should be made to the proposed list of communities identified for further analysis.

**January – May 2006:** Federal subsistence staff will conduct in-depth analyses of the characteristics of each community on the Board-approved list of communities identified for further analysis. This further analysis may include population density as an additional community characteristic. The staff will produce a report which includes both the in-depth analyses and the methods used in the analyses.

**June 2006:** The Federal Subsistence Board will develop a proposed rule to address any potential changes in the rural/nonrural status of Alaska communities.

**July-November 2006:** The proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register. The public and Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils will be invited to comment on the proposed rule.

**December 2006:** The Federal Subsistence Board will meet to consider the comments received and may make changes to the proposed rule. A final rule will be developed for publication in the Federal Register.

### *The census occurred in 2000. Why is this process getting under way in 2005?*

An effort was launched prior to 2000 to evaluate whether the method used to determine the rural/nonrural status of Alaska communities in 1990 could be improved and, if so, how this might best be done. A contractor was retained in 2001 to develop possible alternative methods. The contractor's report was peer reviewed in 2003. The Board examined the proposed options but, ultimately, decided in December 2004 to use a method similar to that used in 1990.

Also, while the census took place in 2000, the Census Bureau releases data over a period of several years following the census. Some of the data needed for in-depth analyses of community characteristics were not available until recently.

### *Will there be additional opportunities for public comment?*

Yes. There will be an opportunity for public comment when the initial analysis is completed and a list of communities identified for further analysis is completed, about August 2005. In addition, there will be an opportunity for public comment when the Board drafts a proposed regulation which includes any changes in the rural/nonrural status of Alaska communities, about September 2006.

## Drawing on Youth

# Congratulations to our student Art Contest Winners!

The Federal Subsistence Board is pleased to announce the winners of the 2005 Subsistence Student Art Contest. The grand prize winners are Brentina Lincoln, 17, of Toksook Bay and Isiah Rivers, 18, of Scammon Bay. Brentina's entry serves as the cover art for the 2005-2006 subsistence fishing regulations book, while Isiah's entry will serve as the cover art for the 2005-2006 subsistence wildlife harvest regulations book.

More than 540 students from throughout Alaska entered the contest, which is intended to encourage young people to share their subsistence way of life with others. The artwork was judged by the chairs of the 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils during the Federal Subsistence Board meeting Jan. 11-13 in Anchorage. The judges were impressed with the quality of the work and said it was difficult to choose the winners from among so many fine entries. The student art will be used in regulation books, brochures and other publications produced by the Office of Subsistence Management. In addition to the two grand prize winners, 39 students received honorable mention certificates for their work. All other students who entered received certificates of participation.



*Grand Prize Winner – Wildlife, Isiah Rivers, Scammon Bay*



*Grand Prize Winner – Fisheries, Brentina Lincoln, Toksook Bay*



*Keith Henry, Toksook Bay*



*Peter Berlin, Nunapitchuk*



*Abigail Moses, Toksook Bay*



*Christina Charles, Klawock*



*Kendra Tulik, Toksook Bay*



*Trevor Haken, Nenana*



*Shawn Carter, Nenana*



*Sherileen Frank, Tuntuliak*



# Life's Work

## Armstrong puts her talents to work for Federal, State subsistence programs

For some lucky people, work doesn't feel like work. Their personal interests and beliefs mesh seamlessly with their professional obligations. Their work life has meaning and purpose that goes well beyond making a living.

Barbara Armstrong is one of those lucky people.

Barbara is a Regional Advisory Council coordinator with the Office of Subsistence Management. She provides support for Seward Peninsula and North Slope Regional Advisory Councils. For Barbara, who grew up in the village of Shungnak, it's an opportunity to work with dedicated volunteers from a region she knows well and for a way of life that she knows intimately. Barbara's extensive knowledge of Federal subsistence regulations and processes helps the Councils function effectively and ensures that rural Alaskans have a voice in Federal subsistence management.

### *A cultural and linguistic resource*

But there is another aspect to Barb's work for subsistence that is especially close to her heart. For many years Barbara has helped researchers studying subsistence practices. She has translated Inupiaq hunting terms and names of birds, reviewed documents, and provided extensive cultural and linguistic information to researchers with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Subsistence Division. Her dedication to her work with both the State and the Federal Subsistence Management Program is the reason she was nominated for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regional Customer Service award in 2004.

Most recently, Barbara reviewed the place names, fishing terms, and cultural information for "Whitefish: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Subsistence Fishing in the Kotzebue Sound Region," a report produced by Susan Georgette of ADF&G and Attamuk Shiedt of Maniilaq Association. For the past two years she has collaborated with State's subsistence researchers on the Kobuk Human-Land Relationships project. The project is intended to help land and resource managers resolve conflicts between local and non-local users and add to existing knowledge of the history, settlement patterns, social organization, and subsistence activities of the people of the upper Kobuk River.

### *Poring through the past*

During this project, researchers collected more than 25 hours of tape-recorded interviews with elder key respondents. Barbara translated many of these tapes from Inupiaq into English, and reviewed all tapes for consistency and accuracy. Many people mentioned by the elders had long

*"Barbara is one of those rare people who can truly bridge cultures."*

*—Jim Magdanz*



since died. On the tapes, the elders referred to people by a variety of English names, Inupiaq names and nicknames, making it difficult to sort out identities. Barbara spent countless hours, many on her own time, resolving this confusion, and researching the names and relationships of the people discussed by the elders. She helped develop an extensive genealogical database that was extremely useful in writing interview summaries and project reports.

"Barbara is one of those rare people who can truly bridge cultures," said ADF&G's Jim Magdanz, who worked with Barbara on the upper Kobuk project. "It's not hard to find someone who speaks fluent Inupiaq. It is extremely difficult to find someone who can translate fluent Inupiaq into eloquent English, which Barbara can do. Moreover, Barbara is a self-starter. She is keenly interested in the future of the Inupiaq people. She puts ideas on the table and makes things happen."

"Dynamic people like Barbara are not always a good fit in government jobs," Magdanz continued. "The Office of Subsistence Management deserves credit for finding productive ways to use Barbara's strengths."

### *Subsistence — a family activity*

A major focus of the Kobuk Human-Land Relationships project was a small, semi-nomadic society of Inupiaq Eskimo who lived in the vicinity of the Pah River, at the interface between Koyukon Athabaskan and northwest Inupiaq cultures. In contrast with the conventional view of hostile Eskimo-Indian relationships, this Eskimo society was frequently in friendly contact with their Indian neighbors. Barbara's ancestors were members of this society, and her insights were invaluable to the study.

"Subsistence is, first and foremost, a family activity. Understanding the adaptations of families and communities to changing circumstances is essential to understanding and providing for subsistence," Armstrong said. "Oral history is good, but in a time when people make decisions based on written data, it is becoming very important that the Alaska Natives document their own communities." ■

# From LAND *and* WATER

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## Office of Subsistence Management

3601 C Street, Suite 1030 / Anchorage, Alaska 99503

**Phone:** (907) 786-3888 / **Fax:** (907) 786-3898

**E-mail:** [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov)

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*Assistant Regional Director:* Tom Boyd

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*Layout:* Andrea Medeiros, Karen Laubenstein

*Contributing Editors:* Carl Jack, Steve Kessler,  
Richard Cannon and Dan LaPlant



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